University of Delhi is an autonomous body, rules/instructions issued by the Government for its employees are not *ipso-facto* applicable to the employees of the University.

(b) and (c) The University of Delhi has constituted a Welfare Fund for the benefit of the non-teaching employees of the University and its constituent and affiliated colleges/institutions out of which financial assistance, normally not exceeding three months' pay, is available to the widows and dependents of the deceased employees of the University and its colleges. This assitance may be increased upto six months' pay in extreme cases of hardship. This benefit is, however, available only in respect of such employees who are members and are subscribing to the said Welfare Fund.

(d) Docs not arise.

Programmes Launched on International Women's Day

3749. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the specific programmes and functions launched and observed in connection with the International Women's Day on March 8, 1997; and

(b) the details of the success and results achieved therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI): (a) and (b) International Women's Day was celebrated by organising a Conference at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on 8th March, 1997 by the Department of Women and Child Development in collaboration with the National Commission for Women and the Central Social Welfare Board. An exhibition depicting Government's efforts to raise the status of women was also organised on the occassion. The Conference was graced by the Prime Minister. Besides, an exhibition of products by women artisans and entrepreneurs was held in Delhi Haat, New Delhi alongwith orientation programmes for women artisans, entrepreneurs and cultural shows from 1st to 9th March, 1997 by the Central Social Welfare Board. A cultural programme was organised in New Delhi by the Consortium of Women Entrepreneurs of India with assistance from Department of Women and Child Development and National Commission for Women. The National Commission for Women also organised a scries of seminars/ programmes on various issues concerning women during the International Women's Week. State Governments/UT Administrations were advised to organise similar events in the States and Union Tcritorics.

The Conference, exhibition, seminars etc. organised by the Government and other organisations helped to focus attention and generate awareness on the issues concerning empowerment of women.

Failure of Mid-Day Meal Scheme

3750. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the 'Mid-Day Meal Scheme' launched on ISth August, 1995 has failed, due to Government's inability to disburse and utilise Rs. 1400 crores allocated for the scheme in 1996-97 Budget; and

(b) if so, the reasons for failure to disburse and appropriate these funds, to the detriment of school children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) and (b) As envisaged the Mid-Day Meal Scheme was

extended to 4426 Blocks and 5.57 crore children during 1996-97. However, the Budget estimates for Mid-day Meal Scheme had to be reduced from Rs. 1400 to Rs. 800 crores due to non-availability of updated enrolment figures from States/ UTs and other operational difficulties mainly relating to distribution of foodgrains to children on **a** massive scale. The revised allocation was fully utilised. Initial reports received from State Governments/UTs indicate that the scheme has had a favourable impact on the enrolment of children in primary classes.

Promotion of Sports in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra

3751. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to construct/develop sports stadia with synthetic track in and around Nagpur in the State of Maharashtra to promote sports in the Vidarbha region; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. DHANUSHKODI ATHITHAN): (a) and (b) Based on the proposals received from the Government of Maharashtra seeking Central assistance under the scheme of Grants for Creation of Sports Infrastructure for construction/ development of Sports Stadia in Nagpur, the Department has approved grant of financial assistance for construction of seven stadia enclosed Statement. *(See below)* The details of these are given in the Annexure. No proposal for laying of Synthetic track in any of the above stadia or elsewhere in Nagpur has been received in the Department.

Statement

Promotion of Sports in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra

Sl. No	Name of the Project
1.	Indoor Stadium at Nagpur by Nagpur Yuvak Sikshan Sansthan, Nagpur.
2.	Multipurpose gymnasium hall at Nagpur by Kishanuji Bhisikar Akhada, Nagpur.
3.	Multipurpose gymnasium hall at Ward No. 66 Nagpur by Rao Sahib Akhada, Nagpur.
4.	Gymnasium hall at Ward No. 49, Nagpur by Nagpur Municipal Corporation.
5.	Gymnasium hall at Ward No. 55, Nagpur by Nagpur Municipal Corporation.
6.	Gymnasium hall at Ward No. 57, Nagpur by Nagpur Municipal Corporation.
7.	Gymnasium hall at Ward No. 62, Nagpur by Nagpur Municipal Corporation.

Youth Hostels in Maharashtra

3752. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of youth hostels functioning in Maharashtra as on date with the details of their locations;

(b) the details of the facilities available in these hostels and the funds being made available to these hostels by Government;

(c) whether Government propose to construct youth hostels in Nagpur and other parts of Vidarbha region in the near future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?